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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of status enquiry between a plurality of subscriber communication units in a wireless communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a status enquiry from a first subscriber communication unit to a second subscriber communication unit;

receiving said status enquiry at said second subscriber communication unit;

and

transmitting a status response message automatically back to said first subscriber communication unit in response to said status enquiry.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a status response message ~~is performed either automatically or in response to~~ is performed without a second subscriber communication user input.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

displaying at said first subscriber communication unit, upon receipt of the status response message, a status indication of said second subscriber communication unit.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

displaying at said second subscriber communication unit, upon receipt of said status enquiry message, an indication that a status enquiry message has been received.

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5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

transmitting said status enquiry message from said first subscriber communication unit via infrastructure in said wireless communication system to said second subscriber communication unit; and/or

transmitting said status response message from said second subscriber communication unit via infrastructure in said wireless communication system to said first subscriber communication unit.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

providing a user of said second subscriber communication unit with an ability to input status information to be included in a response to a status enquiry message.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, wherein said status enquiry message is transmitted in the form of a short message service message.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 7, the method further comprising the step of:

identifying said status enquiry message as being a status enquiry in a header portion of said short message service message.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

making a number of features of said status enquiry message or said status response message user-configurable.

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10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 9, wherein said user-configurable features include at least one of:

- (i) an ability to transmit or receive status enquiry calls at a particular time of a day, or a particular day in a week,
- (ii) whether a status enquiry message and/or a status enquiry response should be displayed to a user,
- (iii) whether a subscriber communication unit is accepting calls,
- (iv) whether a subscriber communication unit is accepting priority calls,
- (v) when a subscriber communication unit will start accepting calls,
- (vi) whether a subscriber communication unit is arranged to play, for example, a ring tone on receiving a call, or
- (vii) whether a subscriber communication unit is muted.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

storing said status enquiry message and/or said status response message in either an element in the infrastructure of said wireless communication system for subsequent re-transmittal to a requesting or destination subscriber unit or in said first or second subscriber communication unit for subsequent retrieval by a user.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of status enquiry according to Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

tagging at least one phonebook entry or call register relating to said status enquiry message such that it can be transmitted at a time of a day, or periodically, to allow a user to be kept informed as to the availability of at least one other subscriber communication unit.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wireless communication system adapted to facilitate the status enquiry method steps of Claim 1.

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14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A subscriber communication unit adapted to perform any of the method steps of Claim 1.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A subscriber communication unit comprising:

a controller for controlling transmission or reception of a status enquiry message or a status response message; and

a transmitter circuit, operably coupled to said controller, transmitting ~~a status enquiry message or a status response message~~ automatically back to another wireless remote communication unit.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A subscriber communication unit according to Claim 15, the subscriber communication unit further comprising:

~~a controller for controlling transmission or reception of a status enquiry message or a status response message; and~~

a receiver circuit, operably coupled to said controller, receiving said status ~~enquiry message or a~~ automatic status response message transmitted from another wireless remote communication unit without user input.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 15, the subscriber communication unit further comprising:

a memory device storing status information relating to at least one other subscriber communication unit.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 17, wherein the memory device stores a phone book feature or call register feature related to said or at least one other subscriber communication unit that a user of said subscriber communication unit may access.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 17, wherein the memory device stores a list of options in a menu accessible from

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said memory device, wherein said list of options includes a status enquiry option to initiate said status enquiry message.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 15, wherein the subscriber communication unit is one of: a cellular phone, a portable or mobile radio, a personal digital assistant or a laptop computer.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A subscriber communication unit, comprising:
a controller for controlling ~~transmission or reception of a status enquiry message or a status response message~~; and
a receiver circuit, operably coupled to said controller, receiving ~~said an automatic status enquiry message or a status response message transmitted from another~~ wireless remote communication unit.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 21, the subscriber communication unit further comprising:
a memory device storing status information relating to at least one other subscriber communication unit.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 22, wherein the memory device stores a phone book feature or call register feature related to said or at least one other subscriber communication unit that a user of said subscriber communication unit may access.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to Claim 22, wherein the memory device stores a list of options in a menu accessible from said memory device, wherein said list of options includes a status enquiry option to initiate said status enquiry message.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The subscriber communication unit according to

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Claim 21, wherein the subscriber communication unit is one of: a cellular phone, a portable or mobile radio, a personal digital assistant or a laptop computer.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method of Claim 1.